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1 April 1952

Minutes of the First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee to Survey Scientific and Technical Intelligence 31 March 1952

PRESENT*

Mr. Loftus E. Becker, Deputy Director/Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency, Chairman

Mr. William C. Trueheart, Department of State
Colonel C. B. Coverdale, Chief of Collection and Dissemination Division, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Department of the Army
Captain C. Kenneth Hurd, Head, Plans and Policy Section, Office of Naval Intelligence, Department of the Navy
Colonel James F. Pinkney, Conference Assistant in the Estimates Division of the Directorate of Intelligence, U. S. Air Force
Dr. Malcolm F. Henderson, Deputy Director of Intelligence, Atomic Energy Commission
Colonel Floyd E. Dunn, member of the Joint Intelligence Group, The Joint Staff

The meeting opened with a round-table discussion of the possible scope of the inquiry to be made by the Committee. Mr. Becker suggested that there were two major questions that should be looked into. These were:

1. What is the job to be done with respect to production of adequate scientific and technical intelligence, using these terms in the broadest sense, and

2. What, if any, coordinating bodies or mechanisms should exist in order to identify gaps, avoid duplication, and insure that the needs of national, as well as departmental, intelligence will be satisfied in this specialized field?

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* Mr. Richard D. Drain, Executive Assistant to Mr. Becker, acted as recorder of the meeting.

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As respects the first question, it was suggested that the Committee might inquire into the nature of the requirements of the various departments and agencies and of the national intelligence establishment for scientific and technical intelligence. This inquiry should also include what is presently being done to satisfy those requirements. It was brought out by discussions that this inquiry should not be confined to the IAC agencies, since other agencies and departments are doing work in this field. It was also suggested that resources presently devoted to these requirements by a particular department or agency should not be regarded as determinative of the question of how responsibilities should be allocated.

Also relevant to the first question was the suggestion that responsibilities for satisfying these requirements might be allocated in various ways. Mr. Becker reaffirmed the DCI's expressed policy that CIA did not recognize any jurisdictional problem if another agency was prepared to accept full responsibility for a particular area of intelligence and was qualified to fulfill that responsibility. With respect to some requirements, a single department or agency might be prepared to accept full and exclusive responsibility. As respects others, a single department or agency might be prepared to accept primary responsibility, recognizing that others could profitably contribute. As to still others, it might have to be recognized that the responsibility was multiple, even extending beyond the IAC. This last type posed particular questions of coordination.

There seemed to be general agreement that it would not be appropriate to allocate full responsibility for all scientific and technical intelligence to a single agency or department, imposing upon it the obligation to produce such intelligence for all others as a matter of common concern. Agreement on that principle gave rise to the question of coordination.

There also appeared to be general agreement that at present there is a relatively free and full interchange of scientific and technical intelligence information among the various departments and agencies.

It was the sense of the meeting that the mission of this Committee should be more broadly conceived than the task of formulating an NSCID respecting scientific and technical intelligence. An attempt should be made to inquire into the requisites for the implementation of such a directive. In this connection, it was made clear from the exchange of views by Committee members that a fresh approach to this problem would be likely to benefit the entire intelligence community.

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and it was felt that the lack of involvement of the respective Committee members in the scientific and technical field would be helpful, since all came to their task without preconceived views. The experience which Dr. Henderson of the AEC had had, in other capacities, would provide helpful background to the other members of the Committee.

Regarding the second question, it was recognized that in the field of national intelligence there might well be a need for one or more specially-qualified inter-agency groups which could prepare coordinated studies for use by the IAC or by the JIC. The possibility was suggested that in some cases the same group might be qualified to satisfy requirements laid on it by either or both of these bodies.

Another suggestion made, bearing on the second question, was that a policy-making group, having a permanent secretariat, at or about the IAC level, might prove an excellent mechanism for planning and coordination in this field. Colonel Pinkney, the Air Force representative, indicated that he had done some thinking on this subject and volunteered to submit a paper on it. His suggestion was accepted with pleasure by the Committee.

With respect to the question of coordination, various members of the Committee commented on an evolution that had occurred in the various departments' and agencies' understanding of this term. There was a trend toward viewing the task of a coordinator as that of obtaining cooperation by agreement, rather than by issuing directives. It was the sense of the meeting that an application of this concept, combined with a rational allocation of responsibilities in this field, might well solve many of the problems now existing.

There was a brief discussion as to the impact of various definitions of "scientific" or "technical" intelligence upon the work of the Committee. It was agreed that some attention would have to be paid to these definitions, particularly in allocating areas of responsibility, or areas of primary interest. The Chairman was requested by Colonel Coverdale, the Army representative, to provide for the Committee's information the distinction drawn by CIA between scientific and technical intelligence, on the one hand, and economic intelligence, on the other. Mr. Decker indicated that he understood that this line of demarcation was not causing any trouble at the present time, but undertook to procure the requested information for the Committee.

At the conclusion of the discussion it was thought desirable that each Committee member have prepared for circulation at the next Committee meeting (Monday, 7 April 1952, at 2:00 P.M., in the Director's Conference Room, Administration Building, CIA) a paper discussing the following points:

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1. His particular agency's requirements for scientific and technical intelligence, including requirements for the individual department or agency and for national intelligence.

2. The work presently being done in order to satisfy the above-mentioned requirements by his particular agency and by any non-IAC agencies or groups known to be working on such problems. This statement should include an indication of the resources or personnel being allocated to this work at present.

3. An indication of those portions of the overall scientific and technical intelligence field as to which the particular agency

   a. is prepared to accept full and exclusive responsibility;

   b. is prepared to accept primary responsibility, recognizing that others can contribute, and indicating what others; and

   c. recognizes a field of multiple responsibility, to which various IAC and/or non-IAC agencies can make a useful contribution, indicating such agencies.

It was suggested that after the Committee had exchanged and studied such papers, it might well be desirable to hear from qualified technicians on the various questions relevant to the Committee's task.

Distribution: All members in attendance (1 cy each)
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